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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Coordination questions: New Partnership for Africa's Development (item 5 (b))

United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 15 and 16 June 2005, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (E/AC.51/2005/6).

2. The Chief of the Policy Analysis and Monitoring Unit of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of it. The Committee decided to convene an informal consultation on 17 June at which time it would examine the issues requiring further clarification.

Discussion

3. Much appreciation was expressed for the comprehensive and useful nature of the report. There was acknowledgement of the impressive work done by the United Nations system agencies and organizations and the level of cooperation among the United Nations system entities. Appreciation was also expressed for the fact that the United Nations system had organized its activities around the seven thematic clusters corresponding to the priorities of NEPAD.

4. It was noted that, while considerable progress had been achieved on both the African side and the side of the United Nations system, major challenges remained constraining the full implementation of the NEPAD programme, in particular the

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lack of adequate human and institutional capacity as well as financial resources. There was much recognition of the role of NEPAD in terms of providing the framework for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. Note was taken of the fact that many recent reports on Africa's progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals have concluded that Africa is far from reaching the level of international support required to scale up and accelerate measures to achieve the Goals, eradicate hunger and poverty and achieve sustainable development and growth.

5. The linkage between development and peace was underlined. It was emphasized that development was not possible without peace and that stability and security in Africa was not possible without addressing the socio-economic root causes of conflicts.

6. It was reiterated that the mobilization of financial resources was the key precondition to the implementation of NEPAD. The delegations listed a number of crucial areas in which international support to Africa was urgently needed, including significant increases in development assistance, substantial debt reduction for the least developed countries and a successful conclusion of the Doha round of trade negotiations enabling the African countries to have more market access and on better terms.

7. In order to alleviate the financial capacity constraints facing the African countries, it was suggested that development funds should be established to provide the financial resources necessary for the implementation of NEPAD programmes in key sectors, such as agriculture, education, health and infrastructure development.

8. It was noted that international partners and the United Nations system should place more emphasis on resource mobilization for the implementation of programmes, building technical expertise for the development and management of programmes and strengthening the regional economic communities and the African Union.

9. While the work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in support of NEPAD was welcomed, it was suggested that the Office should continue both to place greater emphasis on advocacy work with a view to mobilizing financial resources for Africa and to promote collaboration among headquarters department and agencies to provide a coordinated and integrated response to NEPAD. Similarly, special emphasis was placed on the need to strengthen the consultation mechanism under the Economic Commission for Africa. It was important for representatives from the Commission's headquarters and regional offices to participate in the regional consultations.

10. It was emphasized, as stated in the recent report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD, that the support of the United Nations system for NEPAD must yield results-based action. In this connection, it was suggested that there was a need for the creation of a follow-up mechanism to assess progress made in the implementation of the recommendations and commitments made at various meetings and workshops.

11. The view was expressed that the report should have included more information on the continuing challenges and constraints faced by the United Nations system agencies in providing more support, in particular in the area of financial resource mobilization, as well as proposals on innovative measures that could be undertaken

to address the challenges and constraints. It was also suggested that the report could have been more forward-looking and could have provided information on plans for future activities, as well as on future coordination efforts.

12. Some delegations expressed regret at the lack of attention in the report to other communicable diseases besides HIV/AIDS, such as tuberculosis and malaria.

13. In response to a question regarding the lead agency for post-conflict recovery, it was clarified that the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would be taking over the lead role for the peace and security component of the governance, peace and security cluster, while the United Nations Development Programme would retain the lead role in governance.

14. The Committee acknowledged the usefulness of the annex to the report. In that connection, a number of clarifications were sought regarding the financial and staff resources devoted to Africa during the period 2002-2004, in particular concerning the apparent reduction of resources devoted to Africa in the case of certain entities or initiatives. It was clarified that certain figures were expected to decrease owing to their nature, for example, the heavily indebted poor countries grants decrease as the loan amounts decrease.

Conclusions and recommendations

15. **The Committee welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2005/6) and noted the consensus agreement that institutional support by the organizations of the United Nations system for the implementation of NEPAD was a major form of assistance to African countries, the African Union, African subregional organizations and the secretariat of NEPAD.**

16. **The Committee acknowledged the importance of Africa's ownership and leadership of and growing international support for NEPAD as key to progress in its implementation.**

17. **The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 78-80 of the report.**

18. **The Committee reiterated the central and critical role of the Special Adviser on Africa for the global coordination of support for NEPAD and the need for the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the Office of the Special Adviser towards the attainment of the objectives of the United Nations in relation to its support for NEPAD.**

19. **The Committee called upon the various components of the United Nations system to make greater efforts to work together to provide focused and coordinated support to NEPAD. In this regard, the Committee recalled General Assembly resolution 59/254 of 23 December 2004 and requested the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in order to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate and recommended that the General Assembly give consideration to expanding and providing sufficient resources to the Office of the Special Adviser so that it might coordinate resource and capacity mobilization, institutional support and advocacy to enhance a coordinated and integrated response to the challenges facing Africa.**

20. **The Committee recommended that the Economic Commission for Africa and United Nations country offices be utilized more actively for the advocacy of NEPAD programmes to ensure broader understanding of and participation in the programmes by those who would benefit from it.**

21. **The Committee recommended that the NEPAD programme be communicated throughout the United Nations system as a whole and that civil society and other partnerships for development be involved in order to facilitate results-based action, which could unleash the potential of Africa.**

22. **The Committee encouraged the United Nations system to ensure an appropriate mix of representation from the global, regional, subregional and national levels within the coordination mechanism frameworks for NEPAD, cognizant of the beneficial effects of such practices on programme support.**

23. **The Committee welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to establish a committee to increase support for NEPAD and urged the other entities of the United Nations system to undertake similar efforts.**

24. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the United Nations system to explore innovative approaches for funding the priorities and programmes of NEPAD.**

25. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its forty-sixth session, and annually thereafter, on the progress, including problems, obstacles and challenges, as well as the goals of the United Nations system to be achieved in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.**